

News Advisory



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CONTACT:
Roy Stearns
(916) 654-7538
(916) 799-1036

Tallest Lighthouse on California Coast

Interior Secretary Gale Norton to Lead Ceremony Transferring Pigeon Point Lighthouse to State Parks

WHAT: U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton is coming to California to officially transfer the historic, 134-year-old Pigeon Point Lighthouse from the United States Coast Guard to California State Parks.

WHO: Gale Norton, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Peter Stamison, Regional Director, General Services Administration
Admiral Jody Brekenridge, U.S. Coast Guard
Jonathan Jarvis, National Park Service
Ruth Coleman, Director, California State Parks
Audrey Rust, President, Peninsula Open Space Trust
Elizabeth Goldstein, President, California State Parks Foundation
Wayne Wheeler, President, U.S. Lighthouse Society

WHEN: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 -- 3 p.m.

WHERE: Pigeon Point Lighthouse
Located along Highway 1, in San Mateo County, approximately 35 miles south of San Francisco, or about 25 miles north of Santa Cruz.

Background: Under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000, the U.S. Department of Interior is charged with recommending the transfer of historic lighthouses, no longer needed because of global positioning satellite technology and radar, to appropriate agencies. The transfers are at no-cost to the receiving agencies.

The Pigeon Point Light Station was established in 1871. At 115 feet, it is the tallest light tower on the California coast and one of the tallest in the country.

Press Note: There is room on the grounds for live television units.
This is one of the nation's most picturesque lighthouses.